FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment for Bed-down of the 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron (5 MRS)
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

The United States Air Force (USAF) has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) that provides an analysis of the environmental impacts associated with the bed-down of the 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron (5 MRS) at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action is to bed-down the 5 MRS at Tinker Air Force Base. They would be located in Building 201. The 44-person squadron would be made up of 7 officers, 17 enlisted personnel and 20 civilians. The squadron has the capability to expand to a 60-person squadron. The location in Building 201 would meet the requirements of a 60-person squadron. Under the Air Force Manpower Agency (AFMA) four new manpower requirements squadrons were established. These squadrons are regionally located and organized around specific CONOPS.

The mission of the 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron (5 MRS) is to quantify total force manpower requirements for the Air Force. This is accomplished by conducting Capability-Based Manpower Determinants (CBMD) studies to link manpower requirements to expeditionary, wartime, and in-garrison capabilities guided by the Air Force Concepts of Operations (CONOPS). More specifically, the 5 MRS will accurately quantify resources needed to support the "Global Persistent Attack" CONOPS.

Alternatives

"No-Action" Alternative

By definition, the "No-Action" Alternative is a continuation of existing conditions. The total force manpower requirements would continue to be de-centralized. The total force manpower requirements workload would continue to be accomplished at a MAJCOM and base level. The current process would continue to be fragmented and inconsistent.

Action Alternative

Other alternatives were identified and analyzed to determine their feasibility. After careful consideration, the following alternatives were eliminated because of their cost or the time constraints:

- One alternative was to locate the 5 MRS at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Significant renovation would have been needed to meet the requirements for the 5 MRS. These renovations would not have been cost effective. The renovations would not have met the timelines to activate the squadron.
- Another alternative was to use one of the following buildings 4004, 4005, or 4008 in the EIG (Engineering Installation Group) area of TAFB. However they would have needed significant renovations and this would not have been cost effective.

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1. REPORT DATE	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED
07 FEB 2005		**00-00-2005 to 00-00-2005**

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
Finding of No Significant Impact: Environmental Assessment for Bed-down of the 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron (5MRS) Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma	5b. GRANT NUMBER
	5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)	5d. PROJECT NUMBER
	5e. TASK NUMBER
	5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) **72nd Civil Engineering Directorate,Environmental Management,Tinker AFB,OK,73145**	8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)	10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
	11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

14. ABSTRACT

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE			
unclassified	**unclassified**	**unclassified**	**Same as Report (SAR)**	**15**	

Environmental Consequences

No unavoidable adverse environmental effects from the implementation of the proposed action, action alternatives, or the no-action alternative have been identified through this EA.

No long-term significant adverse effects and no unavoidable adverse environmental effects from the implementation of the proposed action have been identified through this EA. As a result, no long-term mitigation measures are required.

Beneficial impacts of the proposed action include a cost effective method of establishing the 5 MRS at Tinker Air Force Base within the timelines required by AFMA.

Conclusion

The attached EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 6050.1, U.S. Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, and Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) Final Rule (32 CFR 989).

The finding of this EA is that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on the human or natural environment; therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) statement is issued for the proposed action, and no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Approved: Joan M. Cunningham Date: 7 Feb 05

JOAN M. CUNNINGHAM, Colonel, USAF
Chairperson, Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Council

Environmental Assessment

Bed-down of 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron (5 MRS)
at
Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB), Oklahoma
December 2004

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by Environmental Management Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB), Oklahoma. This assessment describes the bed-down of the 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron at Tinker AFB in order to evaluate the level of required environmental documentation.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

See Figure 1 – Building 201.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The mission of the 5th Manpower Requirements Squadron (5 MRS) is to quantify total force manpower requirements for the Air Force. This is accomplished by conducting Capability-Based Manpower Determinants (CBMD) studies to link manpower requirements to expeditionary, wartime, and in-garrison capabilities guided by the Air Force Concepts of Operations (CONOPS). More specifically, the 5 MRS will accurately quantify resources needed to support the "Global Persistent Attack" CONOPS.

During CORONA South 03, CSAF supported an AF/DP initiative to bring the manpower requirements determination process in line with the expeditionary Air Force construct and to develop a timely process in consonance with our emerging capability-based concstruct. Accordingly, the manpower community developed a new process to quantify total force manpower requirements in support of Air Force capabilities versus functional stovepipes. This process, the Capability-Based Manpower Determinant (CBMD), provides a more responsive methodology to quantify total force manpower requirements for both expeditionary and home station missions and link our program requirements to capabilities as defined in the Air Force Concept of Operations (CONOPS). Basically, in order to provide manpower requirements to war fighters, we now need to increase production nearly five-fold, from 147K authorizations under peace time functional standards, to over 700K authorizations under the new capabilities-based manpower determinants (CBMD). A centerpiece of this new approach is centralization at the Air Force level to gain efficiencies in the sheer magnitude of the workload inherent in this new process. The new process turns a previously fragmented and inconsistent process into one that develops consistent Air Force-wide capabilities-based manpower requirements. It includes a workload transfer from the MAJCOMs and bases to the centralized Air Force level. Four new manpower requirements squadrons will be established under AFMA, regionally located and organized around specific CONOPS. The 5MRS will determine manpower requirements for the "Global Persistent Attack" CONOPS.

1.3.1 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

Federal agencies that fund, support, permit, or implement major programs and activities are required to take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed actions in the

decision-making process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Title 42, United States Code (USC), Section 4321, et seq. (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed federal decisions. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established under NEPA to implement and oversee federal policy in this process. The CEQ issued regulations implementing the process in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500-1508 (40 CFR 1500-1508). The CEQ regulations require that an EA:

- Briefly provide evidence and analysis to determine whether the Proposed Action might have significant effects that would require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If the analysis determines that the environmental effects will not be significant, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared for the approval of the decision maker.

- Facilitate the preparation of an EIS, if required.

This Abbreviated EA is part of the procedures for implementing the NEPA for the proposed project as set forth in Air Force Instruction 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process, July 15, 1999*, and 32 CFR 989.

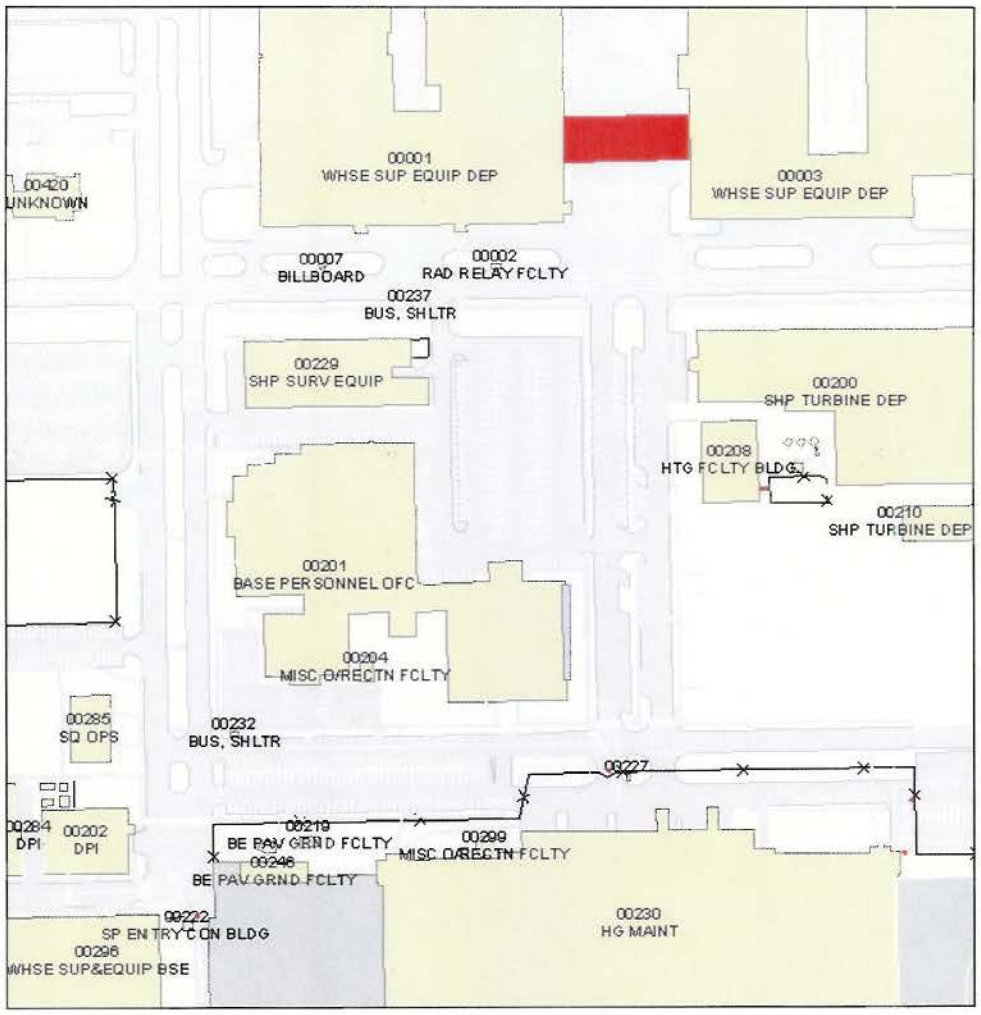

Figure 1-1. This shows Building 201 where the proposed action is located

2.0 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action addressed in this abbreviated EA is to bed-down a 44-person squadron in Building 201. This chapter briefly describes the proposed action and evaluates potential alternatives.

The criteria used to select reasonable alternatives based on the purpose and need of the proposed action and to eliminate those that did not meet the criteria are as follows:

- Current locations of the manpower requirements determination process versus the new locations for the manpower requirements determination process;
- Technical feasibility, defined as the best process to determine the manpower requirements for the expeditionary Air Force construct;
- Economic feasibility, defined as funding constraints, needs, and timelines required for project completion

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to bed-down the 5 MRS at Tinker Air Force Base. They would be located in Building 201. Personnel currently in Building 201 will be relocating by March 2005; therefore, the bed-down of the 5 MRS will not create any adverse impacts to parking and associated traffic concerns. The 44-person squadron would be made up of 7 officers, 17 enlisted personnel and 20 civilians. The squadron has the capability to expand to a 60-person squadron. The location in Building 201 would meet the requirements of a 60-person squadron. The 5 MRS will determine manpower requirements for the "Global Persistent Attack" CONOPS. Under AFMA four new manpower requirements squadrons were established. These squadrons are regionally located and organized around specific CONOPS.

2.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No-Action Alternative is not considered a reasonable alternative, because it would continue be de-centralized. The workload would continue to be accomplished at a MAJCOM and base level. The current process would continue to be fragmented and inconsistent.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED

Other alternatives were identified and analyzed to determine their feasibility. After careful consideration, the following alternatives were eliminated because of their cost or the time constraints:

- One alternative was to locate the 5 MRS at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Significant renovation would have been needed to meet the requirements for the 5 MRS. These renovations would not have been cost effective. The renovations would not have met the timelines to activate the squadron.

- Another alternative was to use one of the following buildings 4004, 4005, or 4008 in the EIG (Engineering Installation Group) area of TAFB. However they would have needed significant renovations and this would not have been cost effective.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Explanation
AFB	Air Force Base
AFMA	Air Force Manpower Agency
CBMD	Capability-Based Manpower Determinant
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
DoD	Department of Defense
E	Endangered
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIG	Engineering Installation Group
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Presidential Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
LLRW	Low Level Radioactive Waste
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
TAFB	Tinker AFB, Oklahoma
USC	United States Code

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section discusses the environmental resources that may potentially be affected by the proposed action. The components of the affected environment discussed in this section are those for which impacts have been identified, or those which require regulatory consultation review. The following resource areas are discussed within this section: topography and soils, air quality, surface water, biological resources, solid waste, and hazardous waste. The following information is based upon the Tinker AFB *General Plan* (Tinker AFB, 2000) and the Tinker AFB *Natural Resources Management Plan* (NRMP) (Tinker AFB, July 2000).

3.2 LOCATION, HISTORY, AND CURRENT MISSION OF THE INSTALLATION

Tinker AFB is located in Oklahoma County in the southeastern city limits of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The base covers more than 5,000 acres and abuts Midwest City to the north and Del City to the west.

Tinker AFB began operations in 1941, when Oklahoma City was awarded a maintenance and supply depot from the War Department. Immediately following World War II, Tinker AFB expanded to include the Douglas aircraft assembly plant and was named the Oklahoma City Air Material Area (OCAMA). OCAMA was overhauled in the 1950s to accommodate the B-52 bomber and KC-135 tanker. In the 1960s, Tinker AFB began to support additional aircraft including the J57, TF30, and J79 engines. In 1967, Tinker AFB was designated an inland aerial port of embarkation (APOE) for Southeast Asia. During the 1970s, Tinker AFB assumed management of new weapons including the A-7D Corsair, E-3A Airborne Warning and Control (AWAC) aircraft, E-4 Airborne Command Post aircraft, and air- and ground-launched missiles. In 1974, Tinker AFB was renamed the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center (OC-ALC). During the following years, Tinker AFB added support for the B-1 bomber, medium-range surface-to-air missile, and F108-100 engine. The 28th Air Division was activated to handle the expanded E-3 AWAC operations. In 1991, two Navy E-6 squadrons were added to maintain a flying/communications link between the White House and ballistic missile submarines around the world.

Today, the OC-ALC provides worldwide logistics support for a variety of weapons systems including the B-52, multipurpose 135 series, E-3 and E-4 aircraft, B-2 stealth bomber, B-1 bomber, and the short-range attack missile. The OC-ALC also manages both air- and ground-launched cruise missiles. Tenant organizations at Tinker AFB include units of the Air Combat Command, Air Force Communications Agency, Air Force Reserve, and Air Mobility Command.

3.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

3.3.1 Topography and Soils

3.3.1.1 Topography

Tinker AFB is located in the Central Redbed Plains section of the Central Lowland Physiographic Province. The Central Lowland Province is characterized by level to gently rolling hills, broad flat plains, and bottomlands intersected by small- to medium-sized watercourses. Oklahoma County elevations range from about 850 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the southeastern part to 1,300 feet MSL in the northwestern part. Base elevations range from approximately 1,200 feet MSL (Crutcho Creek – northwestern portion of base) to 1,310 feet above MSL (southeastern portion of base).

3.3.1.2 Soils

Tinker AFB lies within three major soil associations: Darnell-Stephenville Association (DS), Dale-Canadian-Port (DCP) Association, and Renthin-Vernon-Bethany (RVB) Association. The DS Association consists of shallow to deep sloping loamy soils in upland areas. The DCP Association consists of deep loamy alluvial soils typically occurring in or near bottomlands along watercourses. The RVB Association consists of shallow to deep loamy and clayey soils typically occurring in upland areas. Sloping within this association varies from nearly level to moderately steep. According to the soil survey completed in 1983 and updated in 1991 by the USDA NRCS, 89 acres were classified as prime farmland. Prime farmland is defined as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed and crops. When Tinker AFB was surveyed, much of the land (approximately 300 acres) that would have been designated prime farmland in the past had long since been urbanized, and therefore no longer met prime farmland criteria.

3.3.2 Air Quality

Tinker AFB and the surrounding area have a warm, temperate climate. Seasonal storms provide precipitation, with the heaviest amounts occurring in spring and summer. Spring and summer storms are often severe, with tornados occurring primarily in April and May.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) has adopted air quality standards that are identical to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Oklahoma County, which includes Tinker AFB and the surrounding areas, is in compliance with the NAAQS. There are no Federal Class I Prevention of Significant Deterioration (having degradation of ambient air quality), including strictly limited visibility, areas located in the Oklahoma City region (40 CFR 81.424).

3.3.3 Surface Water

Tinker's surface drainage occurs in three primary drainage basins: 1) Crutcho Creek Drainage Basin, 2) Elm Creek Drainage Basin, and 3) Hog Creek Drainage Basin. These are further

divided into ten sub-basins or watersheds. The majority of Tinker land is drained by the Crutcho Creek Drainage Basin which flows to the north into the North Canadian River. Eventually the North Canadian River combines with the Arkansas River, Mississippi River, and finally discharges into the Gulf of Mexico. The Elm Creek and Hog Creek Drainage Basins flow to the south of the base into the Little River which forms confluences with the South Canadian River, Arkansas River, Mississippi River, and discharges into the Gulf of Mexico. On-base lotic waters comprise a total of about eight linear miles. The first and second order segments are typically ephemeral or intermittent while the third order segment is perennial. All base creek flows are the result of stormwater runoff. No significant point source industrial discharges currently are made to any waterway on Tinker AFB.The Building 201 area is within the Crutcho Creek Drainage Basin.

3.3.4 Biological Resources

The site for the proposed action is a building. No threatened or endangered plant species are present in this area. Also, no rare or endangered animals or species of concern are known to be present on the proposed action site.

3.3.5 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste

All hazardous waste generated at Tinker AFB and sent for disposal is tracked from "cradle to grave." This tracking function is currently being converted to a computerized system being adopted by the USAF known as the Hazardous Material Management System. A number of hazardous materials are stored and used at Tinker AFB. Most of the materials used are related to aircraft use and maintenance (i.e., jet fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, paint, paint thinners, and various solvents and cleaners). According to the General Plan (Tinker AFB, 2000), the base generated approximately 3,000 tons of hazardous waste in 1999. Since 1991, Tinker AFB has received no Notices of Violation from annual State and EPA inspections of its hazardous waste program. Tinker AFB has reduced its hazardous waste generation by at least 50 percent from the 1992 baseline, reaching a mandated Executive Order goal of 50 percent reduction by 1999.

All of the materials used on the installation are stored, used, and disposed of in accordance with the Tinker AFB Spill Prevention Plan, the SARA Title III Response Plan, the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SW3P), and other applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

Tinker AFB Instruction 32-7004, *Hazardous Waste Management*, contains information needed to comply with all federal, state, USAF, and local rules and regulations pertaining to hazardous waste. Other applicable documents include the *RCRA Operating Permit* for long-term storage of hazardous waste, and OC-ALC Plan 19-2, *Tinker AFB Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan.*

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of an EA prepared in accordance with NEPA is to identify the potential impacts of a major federal action on the environment. The identification of potential impacts included consideration of both the context and the degree of the impact. When feasible, distinctions were made between short-term and long-term, and negligible and adverse impacts. A negligible impact may have an inconsequential effect or be unlikely to occur; an adverse impact would have negative consequences. If the current condition of a resource is improved or an undesirable impact is lessened, the impact is considered beneficial. Finally, a "no impact" determination is made when the proposed action does not noticeably affect a given resource.

4.2 EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES ON THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

4.2.1 Topography and Soils

4.2.1.1 Topography

Proposed Action
Implementation of the proposed action will not require any grading or excavation activities and no impacts to the area topography would occur.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, no grading or excavation activities would occur and no impacts to the area topography would occur.

4.2.1.2 Soils

Proposed Action
The site for the proposed action is currently a building; therefore, impacts to soils are not considered significant.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, there would be no impacts to soils.

4.2.2 Air Quality

Proposed Action
Implementation of the proposed action would have no impact on the air quality.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, the proposed action would not occur, resulting in no impacts to air quality.

4.2.3 Surface Water

Proposed Action
Implementation of the proposed action would have no impact on the surface water.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, the proposed action would not occur, resulting in no impacts to surface water.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

Proposed Action
The proposed action will have no impact on terrestrial biota or threatened or endangered species.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, no impacts to biological resources or threatened or endangered species would occur.

4.2.5 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste

Proposed Action
The proposed action would result in no handling or production of hazardous and toxic materials and associated waste.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, the proposed action would not occur, resulting in no handling or production of hazardous and toxic materials and associated waste.

4.2.6 Socio-Economics

4.2.6.1 Population

Proposed Action
The proposed action would have an increase in population in the Tinker AFB area. The increase would be insignificant compared to the total number of employees at the base. The area's minority and low-income communities and children would experience no disproportionate or negative impacts associated with the proposed action.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative, no change to population levels would occur. Therefore, no impact to the population would occur under the no-action alternative.

4.2.6.2 Employment

Proposed Action

The proposed action would not have a significant impact on the total labor force, employment, or unemployment in the Tinker AFB area. The increase in jobs would represent less than 1 percent of total employment at Tinker AFB and a much smaller fraction of the regional employment.

No-Action Alternative
The no-action alternative involves the continuation of present conditions. For this reason, no impact to employment would occur.

4.2.6.3 Installation Contribution to the Local Economy

Proposed Action
The economic impact of the proposed action is less than 1 percent of Tinker AFB's annual overall impact on the regional economy. Because the economic impact will be small, impacts to Tinker AFB's contribution to the local economy will not be significant.

No-Action Alternative
Under the no-action alternative there would be no impact to Tinker AFB's contribution to the economy.

4.2.6.4 Transportation and Parking

Proposed Action
The proposed action would result in a slight increase on long-term traffic on local roads. With personnel vacating the facility before the squadron moves in, the need for new parking spaces would not increase. There is ample parking in the parking lot west of Building 201.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, no impacts to transportation or parking would occur.

4.3 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL MITIGATION ACTIONS

No long-term significant adverse effects were identified. As a result, no mitigation measures are planned.

4.4 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

No unavoidable adverse environmental effects from the implementation of either the proposed action or the no-action alternative have been identified through this EA.

4.5 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHORT-TERM USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The proposed action will not affect the long-term productivity of the environment because no significant environmental impacts or depletion of natural resources have been identified through this EA, nor are any anticipated through the implementation of the proposed action. No

irreversible or irretrievable commitment of natural resources has been identified through this EA. Completion of the proposed action will allow for a tenant organization to better fulfill mission objectives, leading to greater long-term productivity at the installation.

4.6 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA require agencies to consider the potential for cumulative impacts of proposed actions. "Cumulative impact" is defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 as "the impact on the environment in which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions… Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant factors taking place over time."

No environmental impacts from the proposed action have been identified through this EA. Therefore, no cumulative impacts to natural environmental resources are anticipated from the interaction of the proposed action with other projects either on-base or in the region.